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Development to assist the Board in implementing this program. Section 17 deals with extended teacher contracts and a grant-in-aid program is established to partially fund and encourage extended teacher contracts. It is limited to...the grants are limited to 50 percent of the program cost and it shall not involve more than 10 percent of the teachers in a participating school. Obviously, the intent here is to encourage those people who are professionals in the field of education to work longer...longer periods of time. Section 21 establishes the role for ESU's in assisting a school in meeting approval and accreditation in the core curriculum standards adopted by the State Board of Education. They are to aid in upgrading staff, curriculum, equipment, and assist in teacher evaluation in two-year assistance programs. I might add, I think that is one of the most important parts of the bills particularly, particularly for the smaller school systems of this state. If they are to meet the higher standards, if they are to be able to prepare their students to enter the information age under the Twenty-First Century, many of our small schools in this state are going to have a difficult time doing that themselves and they are going to need help, they are going to need assistance.

PRESIDENT: Your time has expired, Senator.

SENATOR VICKERS: We believe that the ESU's are appropriate to help bring that about. Section 22 is the exemption from the lid, and with that, I will thank you, Mr. President, and speak to it later.

PRESIDENT: With the interest of explaining the full concept of the bill before we go to amendments, the Chair recognizes Senator Hoagland. May we have order in the Chamber please so that we can hear the speaker. (Gavel.) Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Colleagues, Mr. President, as Vice-Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I have the privilege of explaining the other half of the bill, the provisions of the bill pertaining to teachers...what did I say, Appropriations...Education Committee.